

Official Marine Corps Photo



Then-Maj. Frank E. Petersen Jr., stands on the flight line at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. At the time, he was serving as the air station aviation safety officer.

## COVER STORY

### 16 Journey through the past with a Silver Hawk who is still soaring.

Retired Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen Jr. tells *Marines* about his life, career, and what it means to keep on flying, even in the face of adversity.

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Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen Jr., stands beside a vintage war plane at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, Quantico, Va.  
Official Marine Corps Photo

**Marines**  
MAGAZINE  
*Online*

<http://www.usmc.mil/marines.nsf>

## PME Requirements

I would like to address a professional military education issue. There are Marines knocking down the first sergeant's door to get to the advanced, career, and sergeants courses.

But a large percentage of Marines seem to need a personal invitation to attend and think of every excuse they can in order not to. Marines are still being told they cannot attend by their work sections due to commitments.

I would like to recommend the following:

— A block should be added to the fitness report that states "Opportunity to attend PME for required grade." If that block is checked "no," hold the reporting senior and/or reviewing officer accountable to explain why.

— Staff NCOs should have two years remaining on their contracts prior to accepting promotion.

— Sergeants, staff sergeants, and gunnery sergeants should be required to sign a page 11 entry with a statement to the effect that they know the PME requirement for their grade and will make

every effort to complete the residence course at the earliest opportunity or within two years time in grade.

*Gunnery Sgt. Gene Larue  
MCB Camp Butler  
Okinawa, Japan*

All Marine Message 339/96 contains the commandant's definitive guidance on PME requirements and where the responsibility lies in the pursuit of those requirements.

Since PME is a prerequisite for promotion consideration, not a condition of accepting promotion, signing a page 11 entry as you recommend does not address the real issue.

Additionally, there is no requirement for all staff NCOs to obligate two years of additional service prior to accepting an appointment.

Per paragraph 4505 of Marine Corps Order 1400.32, only those Marines accepting an appointment to gunnery sergeant or above in the regular Marine Corps, and who have completed at least 18 years of active service, must agree to serve two years or to service limits,

whichever occurs first, in the grade to which promoted.

Your other recommendation of having a block on the fitness report form to acknowledge PME accomplishment is right on target.

We recently completed the development of a new performance evaluation system to include a new fitness report form. That new form will have a block for grading the Marine's commitment to PME and intellectual growth. For sergeants and above, this block will serve to foster the very results intended by your recommendations.

We intend the new PES to be implemented by January 1999. With the importance placed on PME in today's Corps, we feel confident the Marines who want to stay and make it an ever-improving Corps are getting the message.

We appreciate your efforts and recommendations. Input like yours ensures our policies and procedures are current and relevant.

*Brig. Gen. Robert M. Flanagan  
Director Manpower Mngt. Div.  
Headquarters Marine Corps*

## Marines

**Commandant of the Marine Corps**  
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**Marines** (USPS 013-867) is published monthly by the Division of Public Affairs, Media Branch, HQMC, 2 Navy Annex, Washington, DC 20380-1775. Periodicals-class postage paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing stations. **Subscriptions:** For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Domestic: \$22.00, foreign: \$27.50 per year. **Internal Distribution:** For internal distribution refer to "PCN 74000000200." The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business, required by law, of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Policy Committee. All photos not credited are official USMC photos. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code AREB, 2 Navy Annex, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. **Reader Comments:** Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code PAM, 2 Navy Annex, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. **Internet:** Visit Marines Magazine Online at <http://www.usmc.mil/marines.nsf>

Sgt. Charles F. Wolf





## Pay Questions

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.**—Marines with pay-related questions sometimes have a tough time finding the right answer. Many times, the answer is closer than you think. With few exceptions, transactions affecting active duty pay are initiated by the Marine's local administrative or finance office. That's the first place a Marine should check when there is a problem. Even for functions listed below, the best and most effective thing to do is contact your local administrative or finance office.

For the rest, a good phone listing of functional areas at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (Kansas City Center) may come in handy. Commercial numbers are (816)926-xxxx. The DSN prefix is 465. (\* Kansas City Center, \*\* Denver Center)

**-Active duty pay** — (for reporting units directly supported by the field finance office located at the Kansas City Center; includes ships detachments, Inspector-Instructor staffs, and any other special account category) 5343/3451

**-Allotments:** starts, stops, address changes 7944

**-Allotment return items** (EFT, checks) \*(800)449-3327

**-Appellate leave** 7859

**-Bonds** \*(800)449-3327

**-Claims** 7148

**-Debts to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service** 7079

**-Entitlement to pay, allowances** (contact your servicing admin office)

**-Excess leave (LAW)** 7859

**-Garnishment** — automated actions 7050

**-Indebtedness** \*\*(800)962-0648

**-Montgomery GIBill** 7050

**-Reserve pay** 7002/5264

**-Separation, final audit** 7426

**-Travel after retirement, discharge; deceased accounts** 7976

**-Travel pay** 5046

**-Veteran's Education Assistance Program** 7050

**-W-2s, 1997, 1996** (contact your servicing finance office)

**-W-2s, 1995 and prior years** 7094

Marines who prefer to use a menu-driven recording system can call (800)

449-3327. The Interactive Voice Response System provides 24-hour access to pay information, 7 days a week. Callers can get information on allotments paid and their latest direct deposit amount. PINs may be established for another person, such as a spouse or parent, if the Marine wants someone else to have access to the direct deposit information.

The service also provides recorded instructions on procedures such as how to report non-receipt of an allotment check; obtain written verification of an allotment; convert an allotment to direct deposit; change a check address; and obtain bonds from safekeeping.

The system can also direct business hour calls to some functional areas within the center when necessary.

—Emily Reed

## Save Your 'Cents'

**WASHINGTON**—My U.S. Government American Express card is a wonderful little piece of plastic convenience. I don't have to wait in the disbursing lobby for a travel advance, nor must I worry about safeguarding hundreds of dollars in cash. My only responsibilities are to use the card for authorized purposes and pay the bill on time from my electronically-deposited travel settlement.

Like most things, however (especially when they involve money), it's important to read the fine print. I didn't. As a result, every time I've traveled using my AMEX card, it has cost me money out of my pocket.

I knew that I could claim ATM fees for travel advances on my claim, usually anywhere from .75 cents to \$1.50 per transaction. I thought that was the end of it. Had I read the fine print on the agreement I signed when the card was issued, I would have seen that AMEX also charges a fee — \$2.75 per every \$100

advanced through an ATM. That fee, too, is reimbursable, and a little more attention to detail on my part would have kept my money where it belongs — in my pocket. I discovered my oversight when I looked more closely than usual at my most recent AMEX statement. What was that \$8.25 fee for a cash advance?

And right under it was a cash advance fee for another \$2.75. On my travel claim, which I had submitted three weeks before I got my AMEX statement, I had claimed \$1.50 and \$1.00, respectively, for the two advances I had taken. I immediately called the toll-free number to speak with an AMEX account representative.

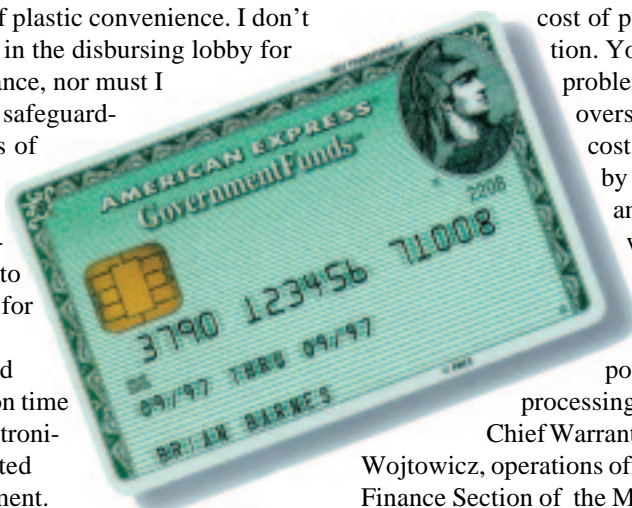
She told me she gets this question all the time, but the explanation is right there in black and white on the cardholder agreement. She was right.

The good news is that I can file amended travel claims, and I probably will for my latest trip. I am inclined to disregard the others as a self-incurred cost of personal education. You see, the problem is that my oversight not only cost me money, but, by filing an amended claim, I will cause the Marine Corps to incur even more manpower and processing expense.

Chief Warrant Officer Craig Wojtowicz, operations officer in the Finance Section of the Marine Corps' Fiscal Department, said people like me are responsible for causing the Marine Corps considerable amounts of time and money.

There are thousands of amended claims submitted by Marines and civilian employees who, like me, didn't take the time to read the card agreement.

The solution is simple. If you draw a travel advance using your AMEX card, calculate AMEX's fee at the rate of \$2.75 per every \$100 you draw from the ATM. Add in the local ATM fee and submit the total on your travel claim. You do not need to wait for your AMEX statement to



arrive in the mail to claim the advance fee.

Once he had thoroughly educated me, Wojtowicz asked for a small favor in return. It seems many Marines who are assigned to lengthy periods of temporary duty don't know they can file interim travel claims.

This is important, because it allows Marines to keep their AMEX account paid up and avoid the unpleasant counseling that occurs when credit accounts fall into arrears. AMEX accounts are billed monthly.

Here's what you should do if you're going to be on temporary duty for more than a month. Before you detach from your parent unit, visit the local disbursing office. Present a copy of your orders and obtain a correct mailing address and fax number. File an interim claim via the mail (some offices accept facsimiles).

If you can not have your AMEX statement forwarded to you by mail, simply use the toll-free number on the back of the card to request the date and amount of the last statement.

Good credit is important, especially when credit is extended compliments of the U.S. Government.

—Fred Carr

## 1998 Savings Bonds

**WASHINGTON** — There are a lot of good reasons to say "Yes" when you are approached by your unit's U.S. Savings Bond coordinator. When you do, you'll also be saying "Yes" to guaranteed long-term financial investment for you and your family.

The Marine Corps will join DoD in the 1998 U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign from May 1 to June 30. Whether you currently invest in savings bonds, or are weighing them against other investment opportunities, this is a great time to learn about one of the safest financial security strategies. Series EE bonds received a major tune-up in May 1997. Now, you only have to remember three simple things about how your bonds grow:

— Bonds earn an improved market-based interest rate, 90 percent of the average yield on 5-year U.S. Treasury securities, right from the start. Bonds

earn rates that change every six months, so your investment always tracks Treasury market yields.

— Interest is added every month. If you have to cash a bond, you'll always get all the interest that's due you.

— To encourage longer-term savings, three months' interest is forfeited if you cash a bond before it is five years old. Once a bond is five years old, there is no penalty.

U.S. Savings Bonds also offer tax benefits. Federal income tax on bond earnings can be deferred until redemption or final maturity. Earnings are also exempt from state and local income taxes.

Bonds can also help families to achieve education goals. The education

bond program is aimed at helping lower and middle income Americans pay for post-secondary education.

If all conditions are met, interest on Series EE bonds purchased on or after Jan. 1, 1990, is eligible for a special federal income tax exclusion when you use the bond redemption proceeds for certain higher education expenses.

The bond owner may exclude interest on these bonds from income for federal income tax purposes if the owner pays tuition and required fees at colleges, universities, and qualified technical schools during the year the bonds are redeemed.

Costs of room, board, and books do not qualify as educational expenses for this purpose. The exclusion applies to the post-secondary educational expenses of the bond owner, his or her spouse, and any legal dependent. Although the U.S. Treasury can't predict future EE bond earnings, you will achieve maximum return on your investment through regular savings.

Consider two savers with similar long-term goals. The first saver begins investing \$100 a month in savings bonds today with a goal of building a nest egg for the future. If this saver's average return is 5 percent, compounded semiannually, the nest egg will amount to \$82,691 in 30 years.

The second saver wants to have the same nest egg but waits 15 years to begin saving. In order to end up with the same amount on the same date, the second saver would have to begin saving \$310 each month at the same average return.

For more information on U.S. Savings Bonds, speak with your unit's campaign coordinator. You can also find information on-line at <http://www.savingsbonds.gov>, or call toll-free 1-800-4US-BOND.

## Important Change to BAS

**WASHINGTON** — The Secretary of Defense issued guidance March 11 to the services requiring them to discontinue the practice of checking service members' basic allowance for subsistence





when they deploy away from their primary duty station.

That change became immediately effective for Marines and was announced in ALMAR 120/98, published March 26.

The law requires that the total of those elements of compensation — including basic pay, basic allowance for subsistence, and basic allowance for housing — plus other pay and allowances not be less during the assignment period than before the deployment.

Previous regulations required the Marine Corps to provide meals to Marines and check their BAS whenever they deployed in an essential unit messing (EUM) or field duty status.

In an EUM travel status, Marines also received an additional \$3.50 per day outside the continental U.S., or \$2 a day if deployed within the U.S.

Now, with the change in law, Marines who deploy in an EUM status will continue drawing their BAS and will receive the extra \$3.50 or \$2 for incidentals. Also, while in an EUM status, they will be charged a discounted rate of \$6 per day for available meals.

The net effect is that enlisted Marines will experience an increase of approximately \$43 in pay during a 30-day deployment. To allow enlisted members to retain their BAS when they are in a field or sea duty travel status, the Secretary of Defense has re-defined field and sea duty.

For the purposes of BAS, field duty is defined as “any maneuver, war game, field exercise, or similar operation in excess of 180 days where service members subsist in a government mess.” Sea duty is defined as “any service performed by permanent duty crew.”

Because of these new definitions, Marines will retain their BAS when they deploy to field exercises for periods less than 180 days, or when they are deployed aboard ship since they are not generally considered as “permanent duty crew.” Since deployments and field exercises are normally scheduled for 180 days or less, Marines will normally retain their BAS.

Enlisted Marines assigned in the Unit Deployment Program will deploy in

an EUM travel status and will retain their BAS. They will be charged for meals at the discounted \$6 daily rate.

Marines in a regular temporary additional duty or temporary duty travel status will not be affected by the changes. They will continue to be entitled to BAS and per diem.

The final good news for Marines is that those who were deployed in a field duty or EUM status on or after Jan. 1, 1998, and lost their BAS during the deployment will be paid retroactively and charged the discounted meal rate.

Units must provide this information, identifying periods involved, for a one-time credit of BAS. Complete information on these changes are found in CMC Message R261345Z MAR 98.

## Runners Needed For Team Marine

**QUANTICO** — Team Marine wants to be on the fast track during this year’s Marine Corps Marathon.

For the past 20 years, teams from the British Royal Navy and Royal Marines have competed against U.S. Marines for the marathon’s Challenge Cup, a silver cup that once belonged to the officers of *HMS Victory*. The Royal Navy/Marine Team has won the cup 12 times. Last year, after the 22nd Marine Corps Marathon, members of Team Marine proudly brought the Challenge Cup back to Headquarters Marine Corps. It is now time to make sure it stays there.

Runners are invited to apply now for a spot on the 1998 U.S. Team Marine. Male and female runners are needed and may come from either the active or reserve forces. Sailors attached to Marine commands may also apply. Male runners should be able to complete a marathon in 2 hours, 30 minutes; female runners in 3 hours, 15 minutes. For more information, contact Rick Nealis, Marine Corps Marathon coordinator, at 1-800-RUN-USMC.

## DoD Equal Opportunity Conference

**WASHINGTON** — Marines and civilian employees of the Marine Corps involved in equal opportunity programs are encouraged to attend the Department of Defense Worldwide Equal Opportunity Conference July 26-30 in Birmingham, Ala. The theme of this year’s conference is “Promoting Infinite Dignity and Worth.”

Among those who may benefit from attending the conference are equal opportunity advisors and representatives, and equal employment opportunity specialists. Topics for discussion will be current EO concerns and trends.

Conference attendees with additional issues for discussion should provide them to the Manpower Equal Opportunity Branch, Headquarters Marine Corps.

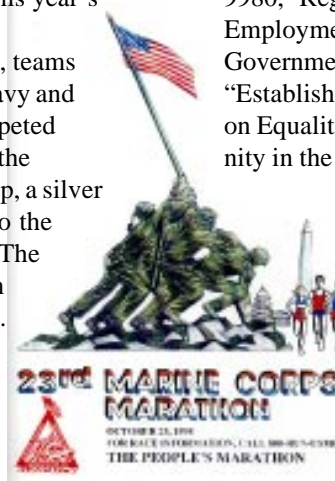
This year’s conference will focus on the 50th anniversary of President Truman’s issuance of Executive Order 9980, “Regulations Governing Fair Employment Practices Within the Federal Government,” and Executive Order 9981, “Establishing the President’s Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Forces.”

All expenses to attend the conference are funded by the parent unit. The maximum room reimbursement rate is \$64/single and \$74/double occupancy. Meals and incidentals will be reimbursed at the rate of \$38 per day.

Because advance registration was closed by this issue’s publication date, participants who have not already registered via their command should submit their information directly to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

Registration forms are available on the DEOMI website at [www.pafd.af.mil/deomi/wweoc.htm](http://www.pafd.af.mil/deomi/wweoc.htm).

For more information, contact your local EO advisor, or call the Marine Corps Equal Opportunity Branch at (703) 693-2656 (DSN 223). □



## ALABAMA

### Marine Musicians Visit Recruiting Station Montgomery

#### RECRUITINGSTATION

**Montgomery** — Music is an integral part of Marine Corps history and tradition. Marine musicians were there when the Corps was born in 1775, enlisting into the First and Second Battalions of the Continental Marines. More recently, two of the Corps' present-day musicians visited R. S. Montgomery, Ala. with a mission of telling local high school students about the future and the various options available from the Marine Corps.

Gunnery Sgt. Ronald Hackler, the musician technical assistant assigned to 6th Marine Corps Recruiting District, and Cpl. Chris Raczkowski, a

member of the field band at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., traveled to Montgomery to assist in broadening the Marine Corps music program.

Hackler, a trumpet player with 16 years of Marine music under his belt, visited the recruiting station to audition and screen applicants who wanted to enter one of the Marine Corps' musical organizations.

As an MTA, Hackler is charged with the most important part of the screening process of a Marine musician, the audition. He screens prospects to ensure they are qualified at the level expected of a Marine musician.

"The primary reasons these musicians audition for the Marine Corps' music program are because they love music and there are so few professional opportunities for musicians.

They see the Marine Corps as a way to do what they love with an established organization that will provide them with a chance to grow as musicians and the opportunity to develop professionally as Marines," Hackler said.

Of the eight musicians who auditioned, two passed: Melody Peoples, a French horn player and senior at Opelika High School in Opelika, Ala., and Anna Ervine, a flute player and junior at Hazelgreen High School in Hazelgreen, Ala.

"The road to entering the Marine Corps Musician Enlistment Option Program doesn't end with the audition. The audition only gauges the competence of the individual on his or her instrument. Like any other

prospect, applicants who pass the musical audition must still meet all of the required enlistment criteria. These requirements make the job of recruiting a Marine musician twice as difficult as recruiting for most other military occupational specialties," said Hackler. "Less than half of the prospects we audition score well enough to enter the program, and even fewer of those are qualified to enter the Marine Corps."

Unlike Hackler, Raczkowski came to RS Montgomery to stimulate interest in the Marine Corps music field at a "grassroots" level.

As a trumpet player in the band at MCLB Albany, Raczkowski visited nine high schools to speak to students and conduct instruction on the basic fundamentals of music.

"The band directors I worked with were very accepting of what I had to impart to the students and they were really interested in learning," Raczkowski said.

Because Raczkowski graduated from high school in 1996, it was easier for him to relate to the students on their level. He focused on the fact that he was in their shoes not so long ago.

"I think that since I'm also closer in age with some of the students, they found what I had to say more believable and what I had achieved in the Marine Corps music program more obtainable," Raczkowski remarked. "Most of the students weren't even aware of the program and the opportunities it offers them." The most important thing he accomplished during his time with the young musicians was to raise their level of awareness about the Marine Corps.

"I think most of the students I came in contact with had a positive image of the Marine Corps before they met me," Raczkowski said. "But now, I'm sure they have a broader idea of what the Marine Corps is about."

—Sgt. Timothy C. Hodge

Sgt. Timothy C. Hodge



Cpl. Chris Raczkowski rehearses with members of the Claychalkville High School Band during his recent visit to Birmingham, Ala.

## JAPAN

### MARINE CORPS AIR STATION,

**Iwakuni** — There are hundreds of occupational specialties in the Marine Corps — from cooks to jet pilots. But there is one job that many Marines don't know much about.

Working behind the scenes in exchanges, clubs, and recreation departments is a group of about 100 Morale, Welfare and Recreation specialists. Without them, life wouldn't be quite as comfortable for Marines.

Warrant Officer Ron Bierner, officer-in-charge of MCAS Iwakuni's Marine Corps Exchange, said the job is especially important overseas. "In the United States, people can go to a mall or department store. We're all they have in Iwakuni."

The job becomes more significant when MWR specialists deploy. They establish miniature convenience stores aboard ship, in tents, and even provide mobile shopping opportunities for Marines by setting up shop on the backs of trucks.

Master Sgt. John T. Alexander, main store manager at Iwakuni, is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Restore Hope. He said the potential to be deployed to a crisis area like Mogadishu or Kuwait is as real for MWR specialists as it is for other Marines.

"In environments like Somalia and Saudi Arabia, we were there to provide health and comfort items. We included items like portable tape players to give the Marines a piece of home."

Gunnery Sgt. James M. Maloney, assistant store manager, said the Marines at the Iwakuni exchange are planning for an upcoming exercise where they will set up a convenience store and carry out their business as if it were an actual operation.

—Lance Cpl. Beck Pridemore

## CALIFORNIA

### MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, Twentynine

**Palms** — Range 410A is raising a few eyebrows as well as causing Marines to



**Cpl. Thomas Shuman rearranges the children's clothing department in the Marine Corps Exchange.**

duck their heads.

It is being billed as the Marine Corps' first live-fire grenade range that requires platoon movement through a series of trench clearings.

The range was recently reconstructed by the Engineer Operations Division of the Combat Center's Aviation Ground Support Element.

Major Stacy Kaucher, AGSE executive officer, noted that units who had previously used the range during combined arms exercises usually had the same comment — that its effectiveness was diminished because Marines could not train with live grenades.

The range's refurbished trenches average five feet in depth, compared to the waist-high level of older complexes.

"The previous trenches didn't offer any real training value because Marines could look over the top edge of the pit instead of around corners," said 2nd Lt. Jeffrey D. Lewis, Engineer Operations Platoon commander. "As a result, they were not learning proper clearing techniques."

Overhead support beams, or "kickers," force Marines to keep their heads down while progressing through the trenches, Lewis explained.

According to Capt. John Judy, Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group, two battalions have taken their shots at the new range, and comments have been overwhelmingly favorable, from privates through battalion commanders.

"It's a test of endurance," said Pvt. Chris A. Marchione, a Dragon gunner with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines. "It's very realistic ... you have to make sure you're set-in correctly."

Marchione said that training in the trenches allows Marines to learn through experience that "the slower you move, the more you mess up your fellow Marines during the attack."

—Sgt. Jeffrey D. Weeks

### MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, Twentynine

**Palms** — Combat Center training areas will soon have some high-tech assistance to keep track of expended and unexploded ordnance.

The Unexploded Ordnance Site Management Model, currently being tested here, will provide several benefits to units in training and to the center's environmental maintenance. Marine and environmental personnel will use palmtop



# Around the Corps

computers to help consolidate paperwork and provide on-site data entry.

Slightly larger than a checkbook, the Hewlett Packard 360 LX contains software which standardizes required information and report writing, according to Jonathan Sperka, project engineer with Technologies Division, Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Indian Head, Md.

"Basically, this unit just took the standard way of reporting and made it electronic," Sperka said. The information can then be downloaded to a server at Natural Resources Environmental Affairs, where the data is analyzed. It is then used to make color-coded maps showing estimates of unexploded ordnance density for each training area.

EOD also uses the information to decide which ranges are prime targets for range sweeps.

The HP 360 LX was chosen for its cost-effectiveness, screen size, and ease of operation, according to Sperka.

The hand-held computer has eight megabytes of random access memory, runs on a 32-bit operating system, and is powered by two AA batteries.

—Sgt. Jeffrey D. Weeks

## NORTH CAROLINA

### MARINE CORPS AIRSTATION,

**Cherry Point** — You walk your post and shiver slightly as the cold night air blows through your uniform. You cock your head to one side and listen as something begins to drown out the crickets and grasshoppers. As you look up, you see small, pickle-shaped objects becoming bigger and bigger as they fall toward you. Then, your command post suddenly explodes.

If you're the enemy, the Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14 have just left you their calling card.

"Most people don't think of us until they need one of our bombs," said Cpl. Jason Wohlberg, a MALS-14 aviation armament repair technician who works on the Paveway II Guided Bomb Unit 16.

The 1,100-pound laser-guided bomb was made famous during the Gulf War with its precision target-finding capabilities.

Lance Cpl. Michael Santucci and Cpl. Jason Wohlberg, MALS-14 aviation armament equipment repair technicians, peer inside the detector system of a GBU-16. This system locates the laser beam on a lazed target and, with the help of moveable fins, guides the bomb to it.



In order for the free-fall bomb to find its target, a team of Marines must designate the target with a laser beam, either from the ground or from the air. A detector system on the tip of the bomb rotates on a swivel known as a gimbal and searches for the laser signal. Once the target is located, the computer system inside the bomb relays messages to moveable fins, keeping it on course.

According to Staff Sgt. Sean Smith, armament repair shop NCOIC, the first generation of these bombs was used during the Vietnam War era and would effectively hit a target 70 percent of the time. The second generation was more precise, landing close to, but not always on the designated target. With the current generation of bombs, Smith said, Marines can pick which window they want it to go through.

Marines go to school for three months to learn aviation armament repair skills. Since they are rarely required to work with live bombs, the repair technicians use the classroom and "dummy" bombs to brush up on their skills.

They realize dealing with explosives is inherently dangerous. That's why Smith and his team of repairmen concentrate on safety and doing the job correctly the first time.

Under optimum conditions, according to Smith, a crew of four Marines can replace the detector system on a GBU-16 in four to six hours.

—Lance Cpl. W.A. Napper Jr.

## Washington

**HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS,**  
**Washington** — A Marine sergeant was





recognized as the Joint Staff Servicemember of the Year during an awards ceremony at the Pentagon.

Sergeant Michael A. Sowinski was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal by Gen. Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for his "dedication to the military, country, and community ... and his highly proficient and professional conduct as a United States Marine." Sowinski is the training noncommissioned officer for the Joint Staff.

"Sergeant Sowinski is a Marine who epitomizes the service-wide values of honor, courage, and commitment," said Gen. Shelton. "It is an honor to recognize a true leader and a dedicated professional."

Sowinski was selected from a group of 11 outstanding servicemembers

attached to the Joint Staff. The 24-year-old Seattle, Wash., native reported for duty as the training NCO with the Joint Staff in May 1996. Since then, he has been responsible for the creation and management of the Joint Staff Training Program, a system that has proven to be highly beneficial to newly assigned personnel.

In addition to his primary duties, Sowinski also serves as the administrative liaison for all Marines attached to the staff.

"I've been all over the world and I've worked very hard to be the person I am," said Sowinski after receiving his award. "But, I would be foolish to think I've made it to this point without the support of my family, fellow servicemembers, and countless others along the way."

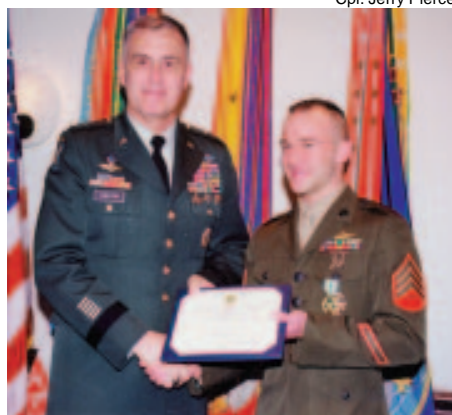
Sowinski enlisted in 1993. His career has included a meritorious promotion to lance corporal, and a tour with the 5th Force Reconnaissance Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan. He has also trained at the Army's Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

Sowinski's next goal is to complete his degree in political science at the University of Washington.

He intends to apply for the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program in hopes of becoming an officer.

"It's time to focus on tomorrow and what I can do to accomplish the next goal," said Sowinski.

The awards ceremony was followed



**Sgt. Michael A. Sowinski receives the Joint Service Commendation Medal from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton.**

by a reception that was attended by more than 100 family members, friends, and fellow servicemembers.

—Cpl. Jerry Pierce

## South Carolina

### MARINECORPSRECRUITDEPOT, Parris Island

Gore-Tex all-weather coats and trousers have been approved for wear by recruits undergoing the Crucible during adverse weather conditions. Until a permanent supply can be purchased, the depot will use 1,500 sets on temporary loan from the Contingency Training Allowance Pool at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

First Lt. Michelle R. Smith, director of the Depot Property Control Division, said a permanent supply of Gore-Tex garments will be purchased for recruits and drill instructors.

"I would say that by next winter we will have enough Gore-Tex to supply all of the recruits and drill instructors going out to the Crucible and possibly enough for all of the permanent personnel at the Crucible and rifle range," she said.

Recruits previously wore wet-weather parka tops acquired through Defense Reutilization Marketing Offices.

"We received \$378,000 worth of free field gear last fiscal year," said Smith. "That helped save a lot of money." But she said that in order to make the garments useable, Depot Fabric Repair had to make \$235,000 worth of repairs.

Gore-Tex will keep the recruits warmer if they get their camouflage utilities wet during the obstacles and have to change, said Sgt. Michael W. Galbreath, a DI with 2nd Recruit Training Battalion.

"It's durable and waterproof. It's the best thing to go through the Crucible with in the winter."

—Cpl. Victoria M. Kirtley

## BAHRAIN

**MANAMA** — Fleet-footed Marines of 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) dusted off their running shoes for the Bahrain Marathon/Half-Marathon March 13, during the first port visit of the unit's deployment.

# Around the Corps

The six-day respite in Manama, the capital city of Bahrain, came on the heels of a 34-day underway period as the 11th MEU(SOC) transited from San Diego to the Arabian Gulf region.

Making a strong showing at both races were runners from the aviation combat element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-268 (Reinforced), and the ground combat element, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines.

Many of the Marines saw the race as a positive way to relieve tension that had built up during the transit.

"It was a really neat opportunity at the right time," said Capt. Eric Austin, first-place finisher in the half-marathon

with a time of 1 hour, 21 minutes, 13 seconds.

"We thought it would be better than spending all our money," added Cpl. Brian Toneygay, who took on the full course with a time of 4:49:10. The race was sponsored by the Awali Football Club, a British soccer club formed by employees of a local petroleum company.

"It turned out to be one of the best organized races I've ever participated in," said Austin, an avid runner who competes in several races each year. "The people were all very friendly, and there was some good competition."

For many of the runners, not knowing what to expect from a race in a

foreign country made it an interesting experience.

"The biggest difference," said Austin, "was that the course was marked in kilometers instead of miles. The whole time, I couldn't tell how fast I was running."

Austin and local runner Adel Bashura ran neck-and-neck throughout most of the 13-mile half-marathon. It was only at the very end, with about one meter left, that Austin was able to pull ahead for the win.

— *Cpl. Cory D. Hoover*

## Virginia

### MARINE CORPS BASE

QUANTICO — Six Marine judge

## GEORGIA

# Marines Assist in Flood Relief Operations

**MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE Albany** — By midnight March 8, the Albany area had received 5.6 inches of rain in 60 hours, creating flash flooding. Tributaries of the Flint River, including the Itchawawaynotchaway Creek of Terrell and Lee counties; the Muckalee, Kinchafoonee, and Muckafoonee creeks in Lee County; and the Flint River in Lee and

Dougherty counties and Albany were swollen. The ground was already saturated due to an unusually wet season. The weekend storm was widespread, dumping excessive amounts of rain here and in areas north and west of Albany.

Following a telephone call from the Lee County emergency coordinator, MCLB Albany Marines deployed on the afternoon of March 8 to help Lee County and state employees with sandbagging operations to control flooding. The rain had stopped during the night hours, but creeks and rivers continued to rise because of run-off from saturated areas north and west of Albany.

Evacuation and sandbagging operations continued March 9 in both Dougherty and Lee counties. Approximately 70 Marines went to Lee County to continue assistance there and, following a request from the Dougherty County emergency coordinator, about 15 Marines began working in Albany with city, county, and state personnel in rescue, evacuation, and sandbagging efforts. Those efforts continued through March 10, with a significant increase in the

number of Marines working the Albany-Dougherty County emergency.

Shortly after, Lee County officials reported that their evacuation efforts were nearing completion. National Weather Service officials reported flood waters of the Kinchafoonee and Muckalee creeks were receding, so only a few Marines were deployed to that area. The Georgia National Guard also arrived to help. Marines were deployed in significant numbers to Dougherty and Baker counties to help with further evacuations and more sandbagging.

Directors of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency flew over flooded areas in southwest Georgia March 11. President Clinton declared Albany, Dougherty County, and several neighboring counties national disaster areas later the same day. At that time, flood relief efforts came under the direction of the FEMA regional director.

The National Weather Service in Tallahassee projected the Flint River would crest at 38.5 feet March 14. The river crested at 43 feet during the 1994 flood. Meanwhile, Atlanta flood officials



Cpl. Jonathan C. Moore

Marines fill sandbags at the Albany, Ga., Civic Center.



advocates from Quantico were admitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, March 23.

The CAAF is the highest appellate court in the military justice system, and its decisions may only be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court. The CAAF, composed of five civilian judges appointed by the president, considers cases on appeal or by petition from the four intermediate military courts of criminal appeal.

Lawyers who seek admission to the CAAF must prove they are members in good standing of a state bar or otherwise authorized to practice before the highest court in any given state they must also be nominated by a lawyer previously

admitted to the CAAF.

"This is a major step for a military lawyer," said 1st Lt. David Humphreys, legal assistance attorney. "The CAAF is a high and prestigious court, and practicing before it is a great opportunity."

Admitted to the CAAF were: Maj. Jason Lagasca, Capt. Anthony Williams, Capt. Patricia Rim, Capt. Gregory Gillette, Capt. Danny Fields, and 1st Lt. David Humphreys.

—*Quantico Sentry*

## Ohio

**UNION COUNTY**—County Commissioner Jim Mitchell was one of about 70 people who braved bitter temperatures March 12 at the rest area on U.S. 33, just west of U.S. 42, to pay tribute to Americans who have served in the Marine Corps. The event was the renaming of a segment of U.S. 33 to the "Marine Corps League Memorial Highway."

"It's a justifiable cause to dedicate the highway to the people that preserved our freedom and gave the ultimate," Mitchell said. "We in Union County know the importance of (Route) 33, so it speaks highly of the dedication on a local level."

The portion of U.S. 33 formerly known as Blue and Grey Trail begins in Wilshire and runs through the counties of Van Wert, Mercer, Auglaize, Logan, Union, Franklin, Fairfield, Hocking, Athens, and Meigs to the West Virginia border. The renaming of the highway is a recognition of the Marines' contributions to our national defense said former Columbus Mayor Dana G. Rinehart.

"Obviously, it's a great honor for all Marines," said Rinehart, himself a Marine reservist. "It's a singular tribute to the fighting forces. It is the right thing to do."

Former Marine Corps League Commandant Raymond Gleason said he proposed the renaming in 1994 to the Ohio Department of Transportation. The accomplishment brought tears to his eyes.

"The Marines upstairs and the ones guarding us are looking down and smiling," Gleason said. "We got the road

that we fought long and hard for. Without the help of the "Red Hats" (Marine Corps League), it wouldn't be a reality today."

The Marine Corps League was chartered by Congress in 1937 under the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt and is comprised of Marines and former Marines with honorable service. The league is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. —*Ahmed J. Bundick* (Reprinted with permission from *This Week in Union County*)

## Japan

**MARINE CORPS BASE, Camp Butler, Okinawa**—The Cultural and Natural Resource Section and archeologists from the Village of Chatan began searching for the boundaries of Chatan Castle in March. The only remaining signs of the 500-year-old castle are a few stone walls located at the top of a hill behind the human resources office.

Sofar, archeologists have uncovered kitchen utensils dating back to the 12th and 16th centuries, as well as a water well that was used to irrigate rice paddies.

According to archaeologist Masayuki Yonaha, discovering history of Chatan Castle is important to unlocking the door to the past. "The test dig is significant because we can find out what our ancestors were doing 500 and 600 years ago. If we don't uncover that, it will be sealed forever."

"One of the functions of archeology is documentation," said Dr. Christopher White, cultural and natural resource manager for MCB Camp Butler. "When it comes to test digs, sometimes you're dealing with the unknown. You never know what you're going to find."

—*Cpl. Brannen Parrish*

Cpl. Jonathan C. Moore



Members of the MCLB Band build the "Great Wall," a sandbag barrier that followed the yellow line of a Dougherty County road.

planned to open flood gates to lower flood waters in the northern part of the state.

—*MCLB Albany Public Affairs*

Cpl. Brannen Parrish



Archeologists search through the ruins of a 500-year-old castle.

# FORWARD DEPLOYED



Fifty years of real-world operations—and still pumping.

**Marine Corps Historical Division**  
HQMC, Washington

**T**he 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) relieved the 24th MEU(SOC) as Landing Force Sixth Fleet in March. This particular change of watch marked the 50th year of nearly constant Marine presence in the Mediterranean.

The current deployment will provide tremendous challenges and opportunities to the more than 2,100 Marines and Sailors,

according to the MEU's commanding officer, Col. Emerson Gardner. "We completed an aggressive six-month work-up, and now's our opportunity to show everyone what we're capable of. This is an exciting time, the 50th anniversary of deployments to the Med. Marines have been coming to this area of the world and accomplishing great things for quite some time. We're ready and well-trained to carry on the tradition."

The MEU's schedule began with exercise Dynamic Response in Bosnia and will be followed by exercises in Romania, Greece, Tunisia, and Spain. Despite a full platter of exercises, Gardner said real-world operations are a strong possibility.





**Ready for war** Troops head for their helicopters on the flight deck of an amphibious assault ship (circa. 1967).

“If you look at the last three MEUs that have deployed from Camp Lejeune, you’ll see each of them took on at least one real-world mission during their float,” the seasoned commander explained. “With the tensions in the world, we are ready to act quickly and decisively.”

The presence of U.S. Marines in the Mediterranean dates to the earliest days of the Corps. The raising of the American flag at Derna, Tripoli, in April 1805 by Lt. Presley N. O’Bannon signaled to the world that the young republic was not reluctant to defend itself beyond the borders of North America.

American interest in the area throughout the 19th and early

20th centuries was often sporadic, but post World War II foreign policy made sailing in the Mediterranean waters a fact of life for many Marines. It became increasingly clear in the early years of the Cold War that American naval sea and air power must be projected into the Mediterranean if the spread of Soviet influence was to be halted.

The first unit assigned to reinforce the Sixth Fleet was the battalion-strength 2nd Marines, which departed Morehead City, N.C., aboard the *USS Bexar* Jan. 5, 1948. Arriving at the island of Malta Jan. 18, they were assigned to ships of the Sixth Fleet until relieved in March by a battalion of the 8th Marines. Except for two periods since that time, infantry battalions from the 2nd Marine Division have been continuously deployed with the Sixth Fleet on a rotational basis.

During the Korean War, 3rd Bn., 6th Marines staged to Korea from the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal, leaving the Sixth Fleet temporarily without a battalion-sized landing force from late 1950 to early 1951. The 2nd Bn., 6th Marines resumed the assignment when it deployed to the Mediterranean in March 1951 when U.S. interests dictated a show of support for Yugoslavia. Also embarked on one of the Sixth Fleet carriers was Marine Fighter Squadron 122.

The reduction of amphibious shipping after the Korean



**Inspection ready** A Marine honor guard, under the command of 1st Lt. James M. Simms, aboard the USS America, render honors to high ranking guests June 6, 1965.

War resulted in the temporary termination of the rotational assignment of a reinforced infantry battalion to the Sixth Fleet during 1955. At this point, a detachment of the 2nd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company and a carrier-based Marine fighter squadron comprised the Fleet Marine Force elements staged in the Mediterranean.

The Navy's FY 1956 objectives, however, re-emphasized the need to maintain a "ready force with a high retaliatory capacity and great defensive strength" in the Mediterranean. This led to an immediate resumption in 1956 of maintaining a reinforced battalion in the area.

Since then, the readiness and versatility of the Marine air-ground team in the Mediterranean have often been demonstrated. On Oct. 31, 1956, BLT 3/2 landed at Alexandria, Egypt, and assisted in the evacuation of 1,500 civilians from 33 different countries.

This was in response to an attack on Egypt by Israel, France, and Great Britain after Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal. Marines also evacuated some United Nations truce team observers as war threatened between Israel and Egypt.

The ability of a deployed Marine battalion in the Mediterranean to respond quickly to a potentially dangerous situation was put to the test in the summer of 1958.

On July 14, a coup d'état toppled Iraq's pro-Western government and threatened political stability in the Middle East.

Fearing a threat from neighboring countries and the disintegration of his own nation, President Camille Chamoun of Lebanon requested the landing of U.S. troops to preserve the peace.

Three Marine landing teams (BLTs 2/2, 3/6, 1/8) were present in the eastern Mediterranean. Marine units in Lebanon were organized into the 2nd Provisional Marine Force under then-Brig. Gen. Sidney S. Wade, who was designated on July 15 as Commander, American Land Forces Lebanon. Air-transported elements of 2nd Bn., 8th Marines began arriving July 18 at the Beirut International Airport.

Lebanese national elections were held on July 31. By mid-August, the Marines began to re-embark. The last Marine units left Lebanon in October 1958, having assisted in maintaining order and assuring the preservation of peace. They did not have to resort to combat. Yet, their presence, along with U.S. Army forces, had helped to preserve the integrity of Lebanon.

## Tip of the Spear

The 1960s witnessed the continued deployment of BLTs to the Mediterranean, although their designation was changed from Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (NELM) to Landing Force Mediterranean (LanForMed).

In August 1965, a Marine Amphibious Ready Group, including BLT 2/2, stood by off the island of Cyprus until tensions over the electoral system subsided.

When a military coup overthrew the elected government of Greece April 21, 1967, BLTs 3/8 and 1/6 were both in the area due to their scheduled turnover. They were used as part of a show of force and as a contingency force in case of an evacuation.

The Six-Day Arab-Israeli War in June 1967 put the MARG with BLT 1/6 on alert for possible operations. On June 6, two carrier task forces moved closer to the fighting. Four days later, President Johnson ordered a high-speed carrier movement toward Syria to facilitate a cease-fire agreement.

On Sept. 1, 1969, a coup overthrew the Libyan monarchy. At the same time, conditions were very unsettled in Lebanon, leading to the October resignation of the Lebanese prime minister. Contingency forces in the area from Oct. 26-30 included two carrier task forces and a MARG with BLT 1/6 embarked.

Political tensions in Jordan during this period also called for Marine presence in the Mediterranean. On June 9, 1970, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine seized 32 hostages in Amman, including 14 Americans. The same day, there was an unsuccessful assassination attempt against King Hussein. The carrier *Forrestal* moved to the eastern Mediterranean to provide air cover for potential evacuations by the MARG with BLT 1/8 embarked. The situation calmed by June 15 and U.S. forces returned to normal operations.

The 1970s saw frequent Marine Corps activity in the Mediterranean. On Oct. 6, 1973, Egyptian and Syrian forces launched a surprise attack on Israel. U.S. Navy forces quickly sortied with two carrier battle groups, the *Independence* and *Roosevelt*, and an amphibious force comprised of Regimental Landing Team 34 with BLTs 2/6 and 3/6. At the same time, a carrier battle group with the *Kennedy* was in the eastern Atlantic. On Oct. 25, U.S. forces went on Defense Condition III alert status as possible intervention by the Soviet Union was feared.

A cease-fire gradually eased tensions, but the Sixth Fleet did not resume its normal DEFCON status until Nov. 17.

On July 15, 1974, Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus was overthrown by Greek Cypriot factions seeking union with Greece. On July 20, in a countermove, Turkish forces landed on the north coast of Cyprus.

The following day, the 34th MAU, consisting of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162 and BLT 1/8, stood by off the south coast of Cyprus to evacuate U.S. and third country nationals. Two days later, HMM-162 began helicopter evacua-





tion of civilians from Dhekelia, Greece. A total of 466 civilians, including 384 Americans, were transported to the *USS Coronado*. The evacuees were debarked safely July 23 at Beirut, Lebanon. The *USS Inchon*, with HMM-162 and elements of BLT 1/8, were alerted for special contingency operations which did not materialize.

As the ground combat element of the 32nd MAU, BLT 2/8 assisted in the evacuation of American citizens from Lebanon in June 1982.

The MAU then landed in August at Beirut to oversee the evacuation of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Ultimately, all three battalions of the 8th Marines and one battalion of the 6th Marines were rotated through Beirut as the ground components of the 24th and 22nd MAUs, serving as part of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force.

In the Caribbean, BLT 2/8 and HMM-261, as part of the 22nd MAU enroute to Lebanon, answered the call to action in Grenada. Operation Urgent Fury began Oct. 20, 1983. By Nov. 2, American and Caribbean forces had secured Grenada and the neighboring island of Carriacou. Their part of the mission complete, BLT 2/8 once again set sail for the Mediterranean.

On Oct. 23, 1983, a suicide truck bomber struck the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, killing 241. On the same day, another suicide car bomber killed 58 French paratroopers. Various Sixth Fleet units were ordered to Beirut to reassert the U.S. presence and to assist in rescue operations.

Following the attack, the carrier battle group *Ranger* was diverted from port calls in Australia to the North Arabian Sea, where it operated for 122 days. On Feb. 26, 1984, the withdrawal of the Marine contingent of the international peacekeeping force was completed.

On June 14, 1985, TWA Flight 847 was hijacked to Beirut by Shiite terrorists. The *Nimitz* carrier battle group was ordered from Italy to the eastern Mediterranean with a MARG of 1,800



**Show of force** A Marine Corps truck is backed onto a Navy LCU bound for USS Ashland as Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., draw out of Kuwait. The Ashland was in Kuwait in response to Iraq's refusal of U.N.-sponsored weapons inspections.

Marines and remained on station until the passengers were released July 24.

During February 1989, fighting in Beirut intensified. In mid-February, following the outbreak of fighting near the U.S. Embassy, Marines were once again standing by for potential evacuation operations.

## Continuing Presence

The 1990s have been a decade of constant activity for Marines deployed to the Mediterranean. Civil unrest, famine, and natural disasters in former Soviet-bloc countries and Africa have led to high-visibility noncombatant evacuations and humanitarian assistance operations.

Among the most dramatic events was the June 8, 1995, Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel mission to rescue downed Air Force Capt. Scott O'Grady in Bosnia by the 24th MEU(SOC).

When severe economic chaos erupted in Albania, the 26th MEU(SOC) evacuated U.S. citizens and third country nationals from Tirana to Brindisi, Italy, in March 1997. Simultaneously, civil unrest in Brazzaville, Congo, called for elements of the 26th MEU(SOC) to break away from its mission in Albania and join the 22nd MEU(SOC) for possible noncombatant evacuation operations on the west African coast.

Although that mission was not executed, the 22nd MEU(SOC) was in action soon thereafter. On May 29, 1997, they began the evacuation of U.S. citizens and third country nationals from Freetown, Sierra Leone. In addition to MEU operations in the Mediterranean, Marine aviation assets have provided a constant presence to help enforce no-fly zones over Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iraq.

The U.S. Marine presence in the Mediterranean has clearly demonstrated the ability and resolve to support U.S. foreign policy interests in one of the most volatile regions of the world. In their current cycle of six-month deployments, the Mediterranean Marines, as in the days of Lt. Presley N. O'Bannon, stand ready to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond. □

Petty Officer 2nd Class Bret Siegel



**Special ops** TIRANA, ALBANIA -- Marines from the 26th MEU (SOC) evacuate American citizens and third country nationals when an economic crisis erupted into chaos.



### **Walking history**

Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen Jr., stands beside a vintage war plane at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, Quantico, Va.





# *Silver* **Hawk**

Frank Petersen:

**A man of firsts, but always a Marine.**

Fred Carr Jr.  
HQMC, Washington

**F**rank Petersen stood outside his home on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore early one winter morning. Gazing upward, he pointed out one of the local landmarks to his visitors. There, high atop a tree, was a bald eagle's nest built strongly enough to defy the winds that sometimes close the nearby Chesapeake Bay Bridge. His eyes were a reflection of awe and respect — even kinship, for Frank Petersen is an “eagle” in his own right.

The bleached homes and wind-thinned pines that line this area

of the Chesapeake Bay are a longway from Topeka, Kansas, where Petersen was born in 1932. But it is the place he has chosen to quietly enjoy the rewards of a life and career that will forever occupy some very notable pages of Marine Corps history. Among the words that can best describe him are “first,” “only,” “hero,” and “leader.”

But when asked how he feels about being recognized as the Marine Corps' first black aviator, its first black general, and the only African American Marine to date to wear three stars, he said, “We need to move forward to utilize, not capitalize on diversity.



**Combat ready** Lt. Col. Frank E. Petersen Jr., climbs into his Phantom jet for another combat mission.



It's just a matter of realizing peoples' talents."

And what talents Petersen had as a Marine! His retirement as the commanding general of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, Va., in 1988 completed a saga that began in 1950 when he decided to join the Navy.

"There wasn't much happening in Topeka. So when some of my friends came home on leave from the Seabees and started telling me about their travels and adventures, I decided it was time to go see the ocean for the first time in my life."

After recruit training at Naval Training Center San Diego, Petersen was sent to school to become a Navy electronics technician. There, he heard about the Naval Aviation Cadet program and suddenly found himself on a different path toward the adventure and travel he craved.

"I was sent to Pensacola, Fla., for flight training, and that's where I met a man who would change my life."

That man was a former enlisted Marine, Dave Campbell, also an aviation cadet. And if things had worked out a bit differently, the Corps' first African American aviator may have been Campbell, not Petersen.

"I was only the fourth black cadet in the program," Petersen said. "It was tough training, and Dave ended up washing out. But before he left, he advised me there had never been a black aviator in the Corps, something he had hoped to change. It was up to me to carry that on."

Petersen persevered and, in October 1952, accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

"They gave me orders to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.," he recalled, "but I told them I would prefer El Toro, Calif. I didn't know it at the time, but I had just jumped from the frying pan into the fire."

Petersen got his "dream tour" to California, but it ended up a short-lived one. The fire he had jumped into turned out to be Korea where he flew Corsairs with Marine Fighter Squadron 212 in 60 combat missions. And it was there that he discovered the "eagle" in himself, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and 6 Air Medals.

"It was something, returning to El Toro as a lieutenant wearing a DFC," he



**Climb aboard** 2nd Lt. Frank E. Petersen Jr. climbs into his Corsair shortly after arriving in Korea in April 1953.

said. "You wouldn't believe some of the looks I got."

But the attention leveled at Frank Petersen was just beginning. He transitioned from prop fighters to jets, while using his off-duty hours to attend night school so he could qualify for the Bootstrap Program. He knew he needed to finish college if he was going to be competitive in the officer corps.

His studies went more slowly than he preferred, interrupted in part by assignments to Hawaii and Iwakuni, Japan. Finally, he drew orders to the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico where he was able to finish up his bachelor's degree at nearby George Washington University. The year was now 1967, and fate was about to create some new pages in the chronicles of Frank Petersen.

"I went to Vietnam and took over Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314," he said. "It was one of the best assignments I had — we took the title of Fighter Attack Squadron of the Year in the Corps for 1968."

It was also one of Petersen's most dangerous assignments. In August 1968, his F-4 Phantom was shot down.

"We had just taken off from Chu Lai," Petersen said, "to



provide close air support for a trapped recon unit. I was leading the attack as we made a second run on the target when my left engine was hit and caught fire.

“Both of us (Petersen and his radar intercept officer, Maj. Ed Edelen) knew if we went down north of the DMZ, we’d be guests at the Hanoi Hilton for a long time, so we turned around. We were just about to the DMZ when the second engine caught fire. We pressed on. Then the fire crossed over our hydraulics and our controls locked. We punched.”

Petersen and Edelen were fortunate. Both were rescued, but not before Petersen wrote a footnote to his ordeal.

“As I was floating down on my chute, I could see the Marine CH-46 (Sea Knight helicopter) about an eighth of a mile away off to one side. Directly where I was headed, though, I saw something else — Vietnamese running toward where I was going to land. I didn’t know it at the time, but they weren’t interested in me, they

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***I couldn't let my Marines think their "Old Man" was having second thoughts, so we found another bird, and I was flying again in two days.***

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wanted my chute for silk pajamas.”

Petersen’s uncanny good fortune was illustrated again before the week was out.

“I couldn’t let my Marines think their “old man” was having second thoughts, so we found another bird, and I was flying again in two days. When I found out what our target was, I started muttering in my helmet. My backseater said, ‘Skipper, what’s wrong?’ I said, ‘You aren’t gonna believe this, but we’re headed right back to where I got my ass shot down the other day!’ But the second time was a whole different story.”

Vietnam safely behind him, Petersen continued his upward spiral toward the eagle’s nest. He commanded a Marine Aircraft Group, a Marine Amphibious Brigade, and a Marine Aircraft Wing, carving out many of his successes during one of the Corps’ most contentious eras.

Race problems, drugs, alcohol, and discipline were at the top of every Marine leader’s list of concerns.

“The 70s were a dramatic time and I suddenly found myself — among other things — as the race expert in the Marine Corps because I was the senior black officer.

“One of the things I always fought for was more minority and female representation on promotion boards, both officer and enlisted. I believe things have improved greatly, but there is still a ways to go. I do believe the military made more and faster gains in race relations than society.”

Petersen said it’s hard to tell what impact race had on his career. He is sure of one thing -- he wasn’t handed his successes on a silver platter.

“A fellow Marine, who will remain nameless, once sent me a letter questioning my three stars. I told him I could understand,



perhaps, people thinking my race had something to do with the first star, but certainly not numbers two and three. I still have that letter somewhere,” he said with an easy laugh.

Finally, in 1988, the time came for Petersen to pass the torch. His career had been brilliant. He was the senior ranking aviator in the Marine Corps as well as the senior ranking naval aviator. These distinctions earned him the respective titles of “Silver Hawk” and “Grey Eagle.” He held a master’s degree and an honorary law degree. It was time for the “eagle” to land on corporate America.

Retirement led Petersen to corporate giant DuPont, where he oversaw logistics, education, and aviation programs. His Marine experience served him well. In virtually no time at all, he was a vice president and never too shy to tell big business it could learn a thing or two from the Marines.

In April 1997, Petersen retired from DuPont and took on some consulting projects. Today, at age 66, he said it’s time to relax a little and catch up on a few things. Among them, are his five





**Fate's twist** Lt. Col. Frank E. Petersen Jr. readies for a combat mission in Vietnam. He took command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-314 July 28, 1968. The next month, Petersen was shot down, quickly rescued, and resumed flying two days later.

children who live in or around the metropolitan Washington area. Two of his daughters are practicing attorneys, one is a computer network engineer, and one is a doctoral graduate going to medical school. His son is an accountant.

The general also sports about on a 34-foot “hot rod” boat for which he wants to build a pier on his property’s waterfront. And then there is the souped-up Cessna Twin Aerostar for his trips to California and the Bahamas.

Many might marvel at how an “old” warrior with more than 350 combat missions and 4,000 hours in fighter and attack craft can keep up the pace. The secret, he said, is the right approach to life and staying fit. His frame would still look superb in a Marine

uniform, kept taut by workouts in his basement weight room, jogging, and sit-ups — the basic regimen of Marines.

There is also the inner strength that comes from giving. Petersen is the chairman-elect of the board of directors of the National Marrow Donor Foundation. He was appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Education to the Transitional Guarantee Authority, which explores better methods to recover defaulted student loans. Closer to his own career is volunteer service with Opportunity Skylab, which introduces youths to job aspects of aviation.

*Retired Marine Lt. Gen. Frank Petersen turns his view from the eagle’s nest on the shoreline and walks back toward his house. It’s a cold, gray day with hard rains predicted for the afternoon. Over his left shoulder, a large freight ship plows through the Chesapeake Bay. He pauses:*

*“This place was the site of some of the first battles fought during the Revolutionary War,” he says. “And down the coast a ways, my great-grandfather, Archie McKinney, was discharged Aug. 29, 1865, from the Union Army’s 55th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry.”*

*Then the “Grey Eagle” walks back into his own nest. □*

Fred Carr Jr.



**Family honor** Retired Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen Jr. displays the Honorable Discharge of his great-grandfather, Archie McKinney, who served during the Civil War with the 55th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry.

# Watch Them Grow

The Crossroads of the Corps does its part to keep forest land clean and healthy -- making every day Earth Day.

**Sgt. Chad E. McMeen**  
MCB, Quantico

**A**s environmental officials in Washington observe Earth Day April 22, they only need to look about 30 miles south to see the benefits of good environmental stewardship.

An aerial view of Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., shows a 60,079-acre carpet of trees, developed areas, and wetlands.

"We have the largest piece of continuous forest land in northern Virginia, and we are trying to preserve and protect it," said John Giannico, civil cultural forester at Quantico Natural Resources Environmental Affairs

Forestry Section.

The forestry section maintains and improves forest health and ensures a quality environment for the military training mission. The four-man team tracks and controls the growth of forest sections, known as stands, throughout the base.

"By controlling the stocking and density of the stands, we can improve the forest's health," said Bill R. Cross, head of the forestry section. "To improve training in the forest areas, we are trying new types of trees that are fire tolerant."

In the event of a range fire, these trees have a better chance of survival.

The forestry section also improves range visibility and quality by conducting controlled burns of the impact areas.

In addition to managing the forests for training areas, the forestry section identifies, evaluates, monitors, and controls forest insects and disease using an integrated pest management approach.

"We have various types of insects, but the Gypsy Moth and Southern Pine Beetle are the most troublesome around here," said Cross. "Firewood cutters clean up downed wood and help keep insects and diseases down."

It takes many years for a tree to decompose and, while laying in the forest, it becomes an insect breeding ground, Cross explained.

In today's world, where environmental issues are paramount, a big issue with the forestry section is the thinning and re-generation of selected tree stands.

Depending on their species, trees are cut when they are 50- to 100-years-old. At that age, they actually produce very little oxygen, according to Giannico.

"When we clear cut an area, we plant an estimated five trees for every one cut down," said Cross, explaining that equates to about 545 trees per acre.

Efforts, like those at Quantico, to preserve and improve natural resources are underway throughout the Marine Corps. Whether it's forestry management on the East Coast, protecting the habitat of the desert tortoise at Twentynine Palms, Calif., or maintaining the beaches at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Marine Corps environmental officials are accomplishing a very large mission.

The American people have entrusted the Marine Corps with 1.6 million acres of property that provide home and support for its expeditionary forces.

Marine Corps bases and stations encompass 40 miles of coastline; 165,000 acres of forest, agricultural, and protected lands; and more than a million acres of training and maneuvering areas. Every day is viewed as Earth Day in the Corps. □







## Keeping it green

Top Left: Grain rye is planted to prevent erosion of new roads. Top Right: Patrick Sorentino, a tree planter from Idaho, gets paid 5 cents for every Loblolly Pine Tree. Left: John Giannico, with the Forestry Section, looks for signs of fire on Range 7.

(Photos by Sgt. Chad McMeen)



# CAUTION: Gas Mask Required in this Area

## Anthrax vaccines required under new Defense Department immunization plan.

### Kimberly Allen

U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

**S**ecretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced March 3 that U.S. military personnel deployed to the Arabian Gulf region would be vaccinated against the biological warfare agent anthrax. It is the first step in a military-wide anthrax immunization plan.

"After a careful review, I have concluded that vaccination against anthrax is a safe, prudent force protection measure," Cohen said. To prove the point, the secretary himself has received the first three of the required six inoculations.

Still, there are many questions surrounding the anthrax disease and the vaccine. The following answers to the most common questions have been provided by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

### What Everyone Should Know About Anthrax

- Anthrax is a biological weapon.
- Anthrax is highly lethal.
- Vaccination against anthrax is critical for your protection.
- This is a mandatory vaccination program to preserve the fighting force.

### What is the threat?

Biological weapons are maintained by several countries around the world. Use of these weapons could cause widespread illness among unprotected military forces. Anthrax is the biological weapon most likely to be encountered because it is highly lethal, easily stored and produced in large quantities, easily spread in the air over a large area, and remains dangerous for long periods of time.

### What is anthrax?

Anthrax is a disease normally associated with plant-eating animals (sheep, goats, cattle, and, to a lesser degree, swine). It is caused by the

bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*. Anthrax has been recognized as an illness for centuries. Once common where livestock was raised, it is now controlled through animal vaccination programs. Anthrax still occurs in countries where animals are not vaccinated, mainly in Africa and Asia.

It does occur infrequently in many countries, including the United States. Human infection with anthrax usually results from direct contact with infected animals, or animal products such as wool, meat, or hides. However, when anthrax is used as a biological weapon, people become infected by breathing anthrax spores that are released into the air. Inhalation anthrax is the disease that results from breathing anthrax spores.

### Why vaccinate?

Vaccines prevent illness by stimulating the body's natural disease-fighting abilities. They are routinely used in the United States to protect against diseases such as mumps, measles, whooping cough, and polio.

As part of force protection, military personnel are given additional vaccines to protect against naturally occurring diseases encountered when deploying overseas, such as typhoid, hepatitis, and yellow fever. Vaccines also help protect against biological weapons.

### What is the anthrax vaccine?

The anthrax vaccine is a formalin-inactivated vaccine used to protect people against anthrax. This vaccine contains no living organisms. Human anthrax vaccines were developed in England and the United States in the 1950s and early 1960s. The vaccine that you will receive was licensed by the FDA in 1970. This vaccine has been safely and routinely administered in the United States to veterinarians, laboratory workers, and livestock handlers.

### What if I am pregnant?

Pregnant women should not receive

this vaccine. If you are or believe that you may be pregnant, you should inform your health care provider. The vaccination program will be deferred until the pregnancy is complete.

### What other medical conditions should I inform the medical staff about?

If you have an active infection or are taking a prescription medicine, inform your health care provider before taking this shot.

### Have military personnel received the vaccine in the past?

The anthrax vaccine was administered to personnel deployed in the Gulf War. Has the anthrax vaccine been linked to illnesses among Gulf War veterans? No. Several national scientific groups have addressed this issue and have found no evidence to link anthrax vaccine with illnesses among Gulf War veterans.

### How many shots will I have to take and what are the side effects?

Six shots — three given two weeks apart, followed by three additional injections given at 6, 12, and 18 months. An annual booster shot is required to maintain immunity. As with other vaccinations, pain may occur at the site of injection. Temporary side effects (sore arm, redness, and slight swelling) may occur.

### Am I required to take the vaccine?

Yes. This program will be treated like any other vaccine that is required to prepare you for deployment. You will be required to take it unless medically deferred.

### How can I get more information about anthrax vaccine?

Talk to your commander. In addition, more information on the anthrax vaccine can be found at the website: [http://www.defenselink.mil/other\\_info/protection.html#Anthrax](http://www.defenselink.mil/other_info/protection.html#Anthrax). □



# Dragon Drones

Sgt. Heath Hamacher

Join the Marines of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 as they ready for their first shipboard deployment with UAVs.

**Sgt. Heath Hamacher**  
Twentynine Palms, Calif.

**T**he Marine Corps Warfighting Lab is testing the Corps' latest unmanned aerial vehicle at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The Expendable Drone Unmanned Aerial Vehicle was designed by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory as an independent means of carrying a tactical jammer that is capable of stopping all radio communication.

After modification and improvements, it became known as the Dragon Drone. The Dragon Drone and 14 Marines from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 are scheduled to deploy with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit in June.

It will be the first Marine Corps deployment of a close-range UAV aboard ship, according to 1st Lt. Brian Shortsleeve, VMU-1 intelligence officer and detachment officer-in-charge.

To prepare for deployment, VMU-1 is conducting three exercises — a fleet exercise off the California coast, a joint task force exercise, and a military operations in urban terrain exercise at Camp Pendleton.

Gunnery Sgt. Greg Lumpkin, UAV pilot/instructor with the Aviation Department of the Warfighting Lab, described the vehicle as 5'3" long, 1'5" in height, with a wing span of 8'3".



**Dragon masters** VMU-1 Marines, Lance Cpls. Juan Diaz, Dennis Wright and Eric Smith, work on the experimental Dragon Drone Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, which is currently undergoing field experiments with the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab.

At a maximum weight of 100 pounds, the Dragon Drone can carry up to 20 pounds of cargo, such as jammer packages; flares; nuclear, biological and chemical sensors; and cameras with laser range finders. The drone cruises at about 85 mph, with a maximum speed of 115 mph, and has a range of 35 nautical miles, according to Lumpkin. He said the vehicle has the programming capability of 100 waypoints, or pre-determined destinations.

The flight crew is comprised of five Marines: launcher, external pilot, internal pilot, payload operator, and mission commander. Lumpkin said they generally look for pilot candidates who have experience with radio-controlled devices. Pilots are trained at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Lumpkin said the Dragon Drone requires a smaller crew and is easier to transport and set up than other UAVs, such as the Pioneer.

While the Dragon Drone operates with a flight crew of five, the Pioneer can easily require 15 or more people.

In addition to providing target location, description, and video, the drone can also locate, monitor, and video trouble spots and send the information back to the ground commander. It can also carry and drop sensors to help monitor enemy movement during peacetime and real-world operations.

"The VMU-1 Marines are all volunteers," said Shortsleeve, "and are enthusiastic about this ground-breaking deployment." □





## Child Care Center Provides Peace of Mind and a ...

# Home Away From Home

**Cpl. Jeff Hawk**  
Special to *Marines*

**C**amp Pendleton Marines who need a place to drop off their little warriors while attending to urgent business can now visit the Fisher Children's Center. The facility, which opened last December, provides drop-in child care.

"The two key words are hourly and walk-in," said Dianne Nielsen, deputy administrator for Camp Pendleton's Child Development Programs. She explained that half of the center's 86 spaces are reserved for parents who have volunteer obligations or doctor appointments. The remaining spaces are for walk-ins. For Lance Cpl. Leon Carroll, an anti-tank assault Marine from 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, the center relieves the stress of scrambling to find a neighbor or family member to help out in a tight spot.

"My wife and I had an emergency today and had to drop our son off for a couple of hours," said Carroll as he and his wife, Deborah, picked up five-year-old Tony. "They have excellent facilities."

The push to build the center from Linda Mundy, wife of former Marine Corps commandant Gen. Carl E. Mundy. She said she recognized the need for an hourly child care center and established the Sloan Foundation to help raise planning and construction funds.

Two of the military's best friends, Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher funded the project. Fisher's drive to help stems from a construction accident that nearly cost him his leg and rendered him unfit for World War II military service, according to Bill White, the Fisher's chief of staff. He said that, because Fisher was unable to serve his country in the military, he feels he owes something to the men and women who risk their lives to

protect him and allow him to prosper. The Fishers funded the building of 28 Fisher Houses which have provided 30,000 military families a place to stay when their child is hospitalized for serious illness or major medical care.

"The Fishers wanted to build a 'safe, economical, and respectable place' where parents can drop off their children and not worry about them," said White. The center is staffed by child care professionals, most of whom have formal schooling in early childhood development, explained Kathy Ingram, the center's director. "Parents say they like the small group setting and the care that we give," said Nancy Hansen, a pre-school teacher at the center.

The affordability of quality child care at the new center is a big hit with Camp Pendleton parents. Sergeants and below pay \$1.75 per hour for each child. Marines above the rank of sergeant and eligible civilians pay \$2.25 per hour.

"It's been wonderfully received. It was something that the community needed, and I think it will continue to excel," said Hansen.

Camp Pendleton was selected as the site for the first facility because of the base's size, the area's high cost of living, and the pace of deployments. The popularity and success of the Camp Pendleton facility is sparking interest in expanding the service to other bases. □

Cpl. Jeff hawk



**Game time** Pre-school teacher Nancy Hansen combines child development activities with fun-time entertainment at the Fisher Children's Center. The popularity of this facility is sparking interest at other installations.

Cpl. Jeff Hawk



**Finger paint** Tony, five-year-old son of Lance Cpl. Leon and Deborah Carroll, shows mom and dad a painting he created while staying at the Fisher Children's Center.

# The Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher House

**Honoring today's military  
families with care and  
compassion in times of need.**

**T**he Fisher House program was established June 15, 1990, with the opening of the first Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher House in Portsmouth, Va. President and Mrs. Bush opened the second Fisher House at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center, Md., June 24, 1991. Today, there are 24 houses located at 16 military and four VA medical centers across the nation. The average cost per night is only \$8.20 per family.

## Fisher House Directory

### California

#### **David Grant USAF Medical Center**

Travis AFB, CA  
(707) 423-7551

#### **Naval Medical Center, San Diego**

San Diego, CA  
(619) 532-9055

### Colorado

#### **Denver VA Medical Center**

Denver, CO  
(303) 364-4616

### District of Columbia

#### **Walter Reed Army Medical Center I & II**

Washington, DC  
(301) 295-7374

### Florida

#### **West Palm Beach VA Medical Center**

Palm Beach, FL  
(561) 882-7180

### Georgia

#### **Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center**

Fort Gordon, GA  
(706) 787-7100

### Hawaii

#### **Tripler Army Medical Center**

Tripler, HI  
(808) 839-2336

### Maryland

#### **Malcolm Grow Medical Center**

Andrews AFB, MD  
(301) 981-1243

#### **National Naval Medical Center I & II**

Bethesda, MD  
(301) 295-5334

### Minnesota

#### **Minneapolis VA Medical Center**

Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 727-5690

### Mississippi

#### **Keesler Medical Center**

Keesler AFB, MS  
(601) 377-8264

### New York

#### **Stratton VA Medical Center**

Albany, NY  
(518) 462-3311

### North Carolina

#### **Womac Army Medical Center**

Fort Bragg, NC  
(910) 432-1486

### Ohio

#### **U.S. Air Force Medical Center**

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH  
(937) 257-0855

### Texas

#### **Brooke Army Medical Center I & II**

Fort Sam Houston, TX  
(210) 225-4855

#### **Darnall Army Community Hospital**

Fort Hood, TX  
(817) 288-8779

#### **Wilford Hall Medical Center I & II**

Lackland AFB, TX  
(210) 292-3000

#### **William Beaumont Army Medical Center**

El Paso, TX  
(915) 569-1860

### Virginia

#### **Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth I**

Portsmouth, VA  
(757) 399-5461

#### **Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth II**

Portsmouth, VA  
(757) 953-6889

### Washington

#### **Madigan Army Medical Center**

Fort Lewis, WA  
(206) 964-9283



# BABY BOOT CAMP

Classes offer new and expectant parents the tools to navigate through the maze of communication, bonding, and education with the new additions to their families.

**Cpl. Christopher Wilke**  
Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**N**ew and expectant parents at Camp Pendleton are getting help from the experts through the New Parent Support Program's Daddy's/Mommy's Baby Boot Camp.

The eight-hour course, generally given in two, four-hour blocks, is sponsored by the Family Advocacy Program's New Parent Support Program. During their "boot camp," parents participate in discussion groups and classes, learning what it means to be

a parent, basic parenting skills, and couples' communication skills.

Defining what it means to be a parent is one of the most important parts of the course, according to Margot Miller, community development specialist.

For fathers, the course focuses on what it is like to live with someone who is pregnant and how to deal with the lifestyle and emotional changes both parents are going through. It also briefly covers what to expect during delivery.

But for mothers, the course focuses on dealing with the physiological and psychological changes experienced during pregnancy and what it is like to become a parent while serving in the Corps or being married to a Marine.

Daddy's/Mommy's Baby Boot Camp also provides information about intimate relations after the child's birth, child developmental stages, and parent-child bonding. The basic parenting skills portion of the course is targeted toward first-time parents, Miller said. Using a doll, parents learn how to diaper, hold, bathe, swaddle, and feed a baby.

"It's like the egg test in high school," Miller said. "The parents cannot just set the baby down on a table when they want to go get a soda ... they have to find a baby-sitter. They are completely responsible for the child."

Listening is the key to the couples' communication part of the class, Miller said. Many of the communication problems couples experience happen because one partner finds it difficult to just sit down and listen to the other person talk.

One of the exercises is called the "communication maze" and requires partners to sit back to back. One partner has a sheet of paper with a maze while the other has a blank sheet of paper and a pencil. As the partner with the maze provides verbal directions, the other draws it on paper.

Miller said the exercise is a common learning tool used by marriage counselors and illustrates how well one person can give directions and how well the other listens.

The parenting skills class was first implemented at Camp Lejeune, N.C., more than a year ago and was originally called the Daddy's Baby Boot Camp, explained Miller. The course was adapted at Camp Pendleton to include mothers because of heavy demand from Marine families assigned there.

The Marine Corps New Parent Support Program is currently contracted out to Children's Hospital of San Diego. In addition to Daddy's/Mommy's Baby Boot Camp, the program also provides home visits by registered nurses and social workers.

The New Parent Support Program is offered at all major Marine Corps installations, including those on Okinawa and mainland Japan. □

Sgt. Steve Ongley



**Reunion** Baby boot camp helps new parents like Capt. Thomas Bajus and his wife, Shari, ensure they are providing a stable and happy home for 1-year-old Cameron.

Marines are known for their spit-and-polish image, but Sgt. Maj. Havel took his image to a new level.

# ‘Mr. Clean’ wears dress blues

Cpl. Christopher Tessier  
MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

Neatly aligned plaques and other mementos adorn Sgt. Maj. Thomas Havel’s office walls. A few personal photos are also neatly displayed. A computer — a must for any modern-day sergeant major — occupies the corner of a tidy desk.

The neatness, order, and cleanliness extends beyond his office. His head is clean shaven. His cammies are crisply pressed and do little to hide his 6-foot, 222-pound, muscle-bound frame. His arms are as thick as a young palm tree and are squeezed into the sleeves of his cammie blouse. His facial features could have been cut from solid granite and denote a demeanor which is highly professional, yet laced with a bit of joviality.

Havel, the sergeant major for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, joined the Marine Corps more than 26 years ago. He has held many different billets in several military occupational specialties as he worked his way up through the ranks.

However, it was while he was a gunnery sergeant assigned as chief drill instructor for Company L, 3rd Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, that he held one of the most unique “billets” of his career.

According to Havel, that’s when his former wife first mentioned she thought he resembled “Mr. Clean,” the character Proctor & Gamble used in their advertising campaigns for cleaning products.

“She said that I looked like Mr. Clean, and that I should compete in an upcoming contest,” said Havel. “I said ‘I don’t have time for stupid things like that, forget it.’”

But there were others who also noticed the likeness between Havel and Mr. Clean.

“Over the next several weeks, I had my peers coming up to me saying that I looked like Mr. Clean,” he said. “Of course, I thought they were just messing with me.”

While on the parade deck one afternoon, Havel got a call from a representative of Proctor & Gamble. Actually, he got two calls. Havel said he thought the initial call was a prank and, in no uncertain terms, told the caller to cease and desist, that he was too busy for this kind of high jinks.

“The first sergeant said, ‘That lady is on the phone again and it’s not a prank. You better pick up the phone,’” continued Havel. “She said, ‘Don’t hang up. Your wife called and said you looked like Mr. Clean. Not many people call up and say they know someone who looks like this guy.’”

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*“I dressed up in this costume, white pants, white T-shirt, and fake eyebrows.”*

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—Sgt. Maj. Havel

to Dallas,” said Havel. “I dressed up in this costume, white pants, white T-shirt, and fake eyebrows.”

In costume, Havel stood in front of a panel of judges who asked him why he wanted to be Mr. Clean.

“I told them the Mr. Clean character represented what we do in the Marine Corps,” he said. “Semper fidelis, always faithful, always trying to do the right thing, and trying to be jovial at the same time.”

“I told them that being a Marine isn’t much different from being Mr. Clean. You have to keep things tip-top clean, you have to have a clean reputation, and most importantly, you have to be faithful to the cause.”

Courtesy of Sgt. Maj. Thomas Havel / Edited For Publication



**Double take** Mr. Clean poses with his likeness, Sgt. Maj. Thomas Havel.

Those core values and Havel’s uncanny resemblance to Mr. Clean resulted in him being declared the winner of the contest.

“I was the Southwest regional winner,” said Havel. “From there, I started doing appearances. I did a few commercials and a multitude of radio broadcasts. Mostly, I worked in Canada, on Canadian television and radio.”

Havel portrayed the Mr. Clean character until a few years ago, using weekends, annual leave, and holidays to travel to his assignments. He said he isn’t currently under contract and doesn’t have any immediate plans to continue with the Mr. Clean character as a second career.

“I didn’t want to get into the Hollywood scene, which included some things that are against my moral beliefs,” he said.

According to Havel, being Mr. Clean was a fairly lucrative venture, but he is more concerned with his family than with making money.

“I’m remarried now, and quite happy,” said Havel. “I really don’t want to leave my family for extended periods of time.” □



# why some sergeants get promoted Head To Head and some don't

Office of the Commandant  
HQMC, Washington

**C**ommandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak recently received an e-mail from an officer concerned about one of his Marines who was passed over for promotion. Gen. Krulak's reply provides clear insight into an area of the promotion system that has often raised questions. It is published here (with names deleted) at the request of the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps so that all Marines can understand why some seemingly good candidates for promotion are not advanced as quickly as their peers.

"First off, let me assure you that your commandant has no problem with you writing to me on an issue that concerns our Corps. If you feel seriously about an issue, you can rest assured that I will feel seriously about it, too.

Your sergeant's story is a very familiar one to me and to Sergeant Major Lee. We have magnificent young Marines who are hard-chargers, great leaders, superb thinkers, and who are truly dedicated to our Corps.

Unfortunately, early in their careers they make a mistake and end up living with that mistake throughout their time in the Corps. Often, they overcome the "blemish" caused by that mistake ... they get promoted and go on to become career Marines. When this happens, everyone cheers and says that we have broken the "Zero Defect Mentality."

At other times, the mistake cannot be overcome and the cry goes out that we continue to have the "Zero Defect Mentality." Here is the reality: we promote by MOS in our enlisted ranks. Each Marine goes "head to head" with their fellow Marines in their MOS. If you have limited promotion allocations, then that competition becomes very keen. The records are screened and briefed by dedicated officers and senior staff noncommissioned officers from all over the Corps ... not just Headquarters Marine Corps "pogues," the vast majority are from the operational forces. Since we have a large number of truly outstanding Marines, the board members have a very tough job.

Let's take your sergeant's case ... he competes "head to head" with another superb



sergeant for limited staff sergeant promotion allocations. The board members look at the two cases. Both are doing a superb job in their MOS. Both have great fitness reports, yet one Marine has had a clean record for his entire career and one has been relieved of his duties and possesses an office hours. (You didn't tell me what the office hours was for, so I cannot give you a sense of how much that played in the decision of the board.) What choice do you think the board is going to make? All things being equal (or almost equal), they will choose the Marine without the NJP and relief ... and they should! Suppose your sergeant was the Marine with the clean record and he is passed over for staff sergeant and looks on the list and sees a fellow Marine, same MOS, who he knows has been relieved and has had an NJP, and yet has been selected. How do you think he would feel?

As his leader, you would be writing me then asking me, "How such an injustice could happen?" Our system is designed to be as fair as possible. Are mistakes made by boards? Absolutely! Do they attempt to do what is best for the Corps? Absolutely!

The Marine Corps has high-year tenure for a very critical reason. Just as you write me and express concern about your sergeant, I get many other letters regarding the slowness of our promotion system and the inability of some of our truly superb young warriors to get promoted. We even have some MOSs whose promotion flow is so slow that their sergeants never get to go before a selection board. By extending your sergeant, we would essentially be adding to this problem. We would be violating our own regulations — regulations that were put into force to allow fairness across the board for all Marines.

You might ask the question, "What would one sergeant mean in the overall promotion picture?" Well, the answer is simple. If we did it for one Marine, how could we not do it for others? In the case of your sergeant, he has already been passed over twice. Honestly, his chances for picking up staff sergeant on the third opportunity are pretty slim. So if we allowed him to take another shot, we would be hurting junior Marines and, in all probability, your sergeant would not make staff sergeant anyhow. How do we justify that type of action to the young Marines who are trying to move up in rank?

Again, thank you for writing. The length of my reply should indicate to you that I am concerned about our young Marines and do care about the type of situation that your sergeant now finds himself in ... but we have to think of the totality of our Corps. Every decision we make has "intended and unintended consequences" that we must be concerned about. □

*Take care of yourself and continue to take care of our Marines.*

*Semper Fidelis,*

*C.C. Krulak*

*Commandant of the Marine Corps*



**THE COMMANDANT'S PLANNING GUIDANCE FRAG ORDER:** An innovative, forward-looking, learning organization must have a vehicle to solicit ideas from all of its members. Marine Mail was created for just that reason. Marine Mail was not designed to bypass the chain of command. The CPG directed the use of Marine Mail to answer three questions. First, what aren't we doing that we should be doing? Second, what are we doing that we should do differently? Third, what are we doing that we shouldn't be doing?

I intend to expand the scope of the Marine Mail system, adding a fourth question: What new concept, idea, tactic, or piece of equipment should the Marine Corps investigate to improve its warfighting capability? I want to encourage every Marine who has an idea that will improve our warfighting capability to submit his or her idea via Marine Mail.



# One Recruiter, Four Marines

This former recruiter now serves with the 13th MEU(SOC). He's not alone!

### 13th MEU(SOC) Public Affairs

Aboard the *USS Peleliu*

**F**ifteen years into his Marine Corps career, Gunnery Sgt. Bryan Van Vleet has had plenty of opportunities to help other people, including three Marines currently serving with him in the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

During a previous tour as a recruiter in Champaign, Ill., Van Vleet recruited more than 70 people. "It was the hardest thing I've ever done," said the aviation life-support systems technician from Decatur, Ill. Lance Cpl. Paul Day, a motor transport operator with MEU Service Support Group 13, is one of the Marines Van Vleet recruited. He now serves alongside his recruiter on the amphibious assault ship *USS Peleliu*.

"He was a real role model. He told us to always strive to be the best," Day said.

According to Day, Van Vleet went the extra distance to take care of his poolees (members of the Delayed Entry Program). "He took us rock climbing and taught us camouflage techniques in local parks. When I left for boot camp, I was ready and knew what to expect."

Another Marine Van Vleet recruited, Lance Cpl. John Ackley, a helicopter ordnance technician, was recently selected as Marine of the Quarter for the 13th MEU(SOC). "I love what I do and I can thank gunny for being able to do it," Ackley said.

Van Vleet's example affects both officers and enlisted, as one of the Marines he worked with at the officer selection office in Champaign can testify.

"He was one of my first examples of what staff noncommissioned officers are all about," said 1st Lt. A. J. Yoloofsky, supply officer for Battalion Landing Team 1/1, who was commissioned via the Platoon Leaders Course at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Van Vleet and Yoloofsky met by

chance at OSO

Champaign.

"I met him before I was commissioned, and I picked up a lot of knowledge just listening to him talk," Yoloofsky said, adding that he owes much of what he is as a leader to Van Vleet's example. "They (staff NCOs) are there to 'train the trainers.' I don't need to be in everybody's business. They get things done."

Van Vleet's belief in being a Marine first is the most likely reason for the praise he has received. "The Marine Corps sells itself. If you just remain a Marine and don't turn into a salesman, you do O.K.," he said.

The 32-year-old's Marine Corps career began when he walked into RS Champaign in 1982. "I went to the recruiter and asked for the biggest contract he had," he said.

The recruiter handed him a novelty 20-year contract as thick as a book with embossed lettering on official looking paper. He signed it right away.

"It was his only copy and when I signed he got a little angry."

Van Vleet more than made up for his enthusiastic mistake by signing up as a parachute rigger on a six-year contract. "I'm one of the old breed that did their jump training at the Navy/Marine Corps Jump School in Lakehurst, N.J."

Never one to remain locked into a routine, Van Vleet got the opportunity to expand his knowledge and earn an extra set of wings as an aircrewman when he was transferred to Camp Pendleton in 1989. "They needed plane captains for the Hueys and Cobras, so I volunteered." During Operation Desert Storm, Van



**Reflections** Gunnery Sgt. Bryan Van Vleet, aboard the *USS Peleliu*, reflects on his days as a recruiter in Champaign, Ill.

Vleet got an unexpected job change. "My unit provided security for a recreation center in Saudi Arabia.

"I was assigned to be an escort and body guard for visiting dignitaries and celebrities." Some of the celebrities he protected included, Gerald McRaney, Delta Burke, Steve Martin, and Jay Leno.

Since reporting to the 13th MEU(SOC), Van Vleet has once again been gaining additional skills. During Exercise Eager Mace 98-1 in Kuwait, he took the opportunity to work with the Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company detachment, assisting and accompanying them on some of their jumps in Kuwait.

Van Vleet plans on continuing his Marine Corps career and aspires to be a sergeant major. "I'll stay in as long as I can help."

In his off-duty time, the black belt in Aiki Jujitsu enjoys practicing martial arts with his wife of five years, Laura, a black belt in karate. They have two children, Brittany, five, and Blake, four.

Although he was away from home for the holidays with the rest of the 13th MEU(SOC), he said he couldn't be happier. "We're making a difference here. How many people can say that?" □